

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of detecting excessive apoptosis in a subject, comprising:

preparing a blood sample from the subject;

disrupting apoptotic bodies in the sample;

removing cells from the sample;

reacting the sample with an antibody that binds specifically to nucleolin;

and

detecting the binding of the antibody to nucleolin in the apoptotic bodies of the sample is indicative of excessive apoptosis in the subject.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the subject is suspected of having a disease selected from the group consisting of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, a neurodegenerative disease, an ischemic injury, an autoimmune disease, a tumor, a cancer, a viral infection, an acute inflammatory condition and sepsis.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the subject is suspected of having cancer.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of endocervical adenocarcinoma, prostatic carcinoma, breast cancer, leukemia and non-small cell lung carcinoma.

17-42. (Canceled.)

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the blood sample comprises serum or plasma.

44-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the antibody is an anti-nucleolin monoclonal antibody.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the antibody is an anti-nucleolin polyclonal antibody.

48-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A method of detecting excessive apoptosis in a subject, comprising:

preparing a blood sample from the subject;

removing cells from the sample;

disrupting apoptotic bodies in the sample;

reacting the sample with an antibody that binds specifically to poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP-1); and

detecting the binding of the antibody to PARP-1 in the apoptotic bodies of the sample is indicative of excessive apoptosis in the subject.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the subject is suspected of having a disease selected from the group consisting of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, a neurodegenerative disease, an ischemic injury, an autoimmune disease, a tumor, a cancer, a viral infection, an acute inflammatory condition and sepsis.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the subject is suspected of having cancer.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of endocervical adenocarcinoma, prostatic carcinoma, breast cancer, leukemia and non-small cell lung carcinoma.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the blood sample comprises serum or plasma.

56. (Canceled).

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the antibody is an anti-PARP-1 monoclonal antibody.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the antibody is an anti-PARP-1 polyclonal antibody.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the subject is a mammal.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the subject is a human.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the subject is a mammal.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the subject is a human.